

- C1
- b) determining the activity of MSH5 in the presence and absence of said test compound;
  - c) selecting a compound that modulates the activity of MSH5; and
  - d) identifying said compound as being a candidate compound useful as a contraceptive.
- 

C2

23. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said compound modulates MSH5 expression.

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C3

29. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said compound modulates the activity of an MSH5 substrate.

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Please add new claims 30-32 as follows:

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30. A method for identifying a candidate compound useful as a contraceptive, comprising:

- C4
- a) contacting a cell expressing MSH5 with a test compound;
  - b) determining the expression of the MSH5 gene or the activity of MSH5 in the presence and absence of said test compound;
  - c) selecting a compound that modulates the expression of the MSH5 gene or the activity of MSH5; and
  - d) identifying said compound as being a candidate compound useful as a contraceptive.

31. A method for identifying a candidate compound useful for modulating meiosis in a cell, comprising:

- a) contacting MSH5 with a test compound;
- b) determining the activity of MSH5 in the presence and absence of said test compound;
- c) selecting a compound that modulates the activity of MSH5; and
- d) identifying said compound as being a candidate compound useful for modulating meiosis in a cell.